



CLEVELAND REGION

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and
The Kirtland Bird Club

THE CLEVELAND REGION

The Circle Has A Radius of 30 Miles Based on Cleveland Public Square

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Beaver Creek | 30 Lake Rockwell |
| 2 North Amherst | 31 White City |
| 3 Lorain | 32 Euclid Creek Reservation |
| 4 Black River | 33 Chagrin River |
| 5 Elyria | 34 Willoughby |
| 6 LaGrange | Waite Hill |
| 7 Avon-on-the-Lake | 35 Sherwin Pond |
| 8 Clague Park | 36 Gildersleeve |
| 9 Clifton Park | 37 North Chagrin Reservation |
| 10 Rocky River | 38 Gates Mills |
| 11 Cleveland Hopkins Airport | 39 South Chagrin Reservation |
| 12 Medina | 40 Aurora Lake |
| 13 Hinckley Reservation | 41 Aurora Sanctuary |
| 14 Edgewater Park | 42 Mantua |
| Perkins Beach | 43 Mentor Headlands |
| 15 Terminal Tower | 44 Mentor Marsh |
| 16 Cleveland Public Square | 45 Black Brook |
| Cuyahoga River | Headlands State Park |
| 17 Brecksville Reservation | 46 Fairport Harbor |
| 18 Akron | 47 Painesville |
| Cuyahoga Falls | 48 Grand River |
| 19 Akron Lakes | 49 Little Mountain |
| 20 Gordon. Park | Holden Arboretum |
| Illuminating Co. plant | 50 Corning Lake |
| 21 Doan Brook | |
| 22 Natural Science Museum | |
| Wade Park | |
| 23 Baldwin Reservoir | 51 Stebbin's Gulch |
| 24 Shaker Lakes | 52 Chardon |
| 25 Lake View Cemetery | 53 Burton |
| 26 Forest Hill Park | 54 Punderson Lake |
| 27 Bedford Reservation | 55 Fern Lake |
| 28 Hudson | 56 LaDue Reservoir |
| 29 Kent | 57 Spencer Wildlife Area |



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN
PARK SYSTEM



PORTAGE ESCARPMENT
(800-foot Contour Line)

THE CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR

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THE WEATHER
Summer 1972

- June - Cold weather and torrential rainfalls, which often created local flooding, characterized the month. Temperatures averaged above normal on only seven days while excessive lows were reached on the 10th and 11th when the minimum temperatures fell to 31 degrees and the daily average only reached 45 degrees. Overall, the month averaged a cold 5.1 degrees below normal. Precipitation occurred on 15 days well distributed in the month, but 4.30 inches fell from the 21st to 25th with an additional 2.38 inches on the 29th. The total precipitation for the month accumulated to 9.06 inches and was in excess by 5.63 inches.
- July - The month was initiated and terminated in cool spells while the period from the 10th thru 24th was warm and humid. Temperatures averaged out within a half degree of normal. Rainfall on 12 days occurred at evenly distributed intervals that accumulated to 4.44 inches and was in excess by 1.15 inches. Precipitation as severe thundershowers was the frequent mode of occurrence.
- August - Cool wet weather was again dominant for the month, with temperatures averaging 1.5 degrees below normal. Total precipitation reached 6.38 inches and was in excess by 3.10 inches. Rainfall was distributed on 17 days, frequently quite heavy, and was in excess of one inch on three of these days.

COMMENT ON THE SEASON

The most noteworthy aspect of the summer season was the weather. With rainfall, often in violent form, at record levels and two days of frost in early June, the bird life of the Cleveland region was adversely affected.

Several observers commented on the destruction of nests in early June by the heavy winds and rainfall of that period. "The excess rain this year most certainly reduced the number of young birds produced" (Skaggs). "Early nests unproductive, apparently washed out" (Ramisch). "Nests located in Rocky River Reservation in early June were all subsequently abandoned or destroyed" (Hocevar). Subsequent nesting successes were not reported with regularity.

As will be indicated in the Noteworthy Records section, the lagoon at White City was again a favorable gathering area for many unusual species of shorebirds. This was generally attributed to the high water levels which left much of the normally suitable habitat under water. Among the most noteworthy of the observations from White City were the appearances of Whimbrel, Willet, Knot, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and American Avocet.

Shorebirds. As so often happens with the migration of shorebirds, only a few weeks intervened between the seeming end of the northbound movement and the beginning of the passage southward. Semipalmated Plovers, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Sanderling lingered at White City until mid-June (See Noteworthy Records for details of new late spring dates.) The fall migration was under way several weeks later when on July 9 several Dowitchers and a lone Greater Yellowlegs appeared (Klamm).

Gulls and Terns. Small numbers of Ring-billed, Herring, and Bonaparte's Gulls were again reported regularly throughout the summer. The buildup of these species was slow with no major accumulation noted until the first week of August. Caspian, Black, and Common Terns were also reported in good numbers throughout August. Two very early Common Terns were noted at White City on July 1 (Klamm).

Nighthawks on the Move. The first movement of the Common Nighthawk apparently began as early as the second week of August and gradually intensified over succeeding weeks. A summary of early and sizeable observations are indicated by the following reports from observers in various parts of the region:

August 13 - A small flock of eight was noted at Lakewood (Stasko).

August 23 - Between 7:15 and 7:30 PM a total of 32 birds was observed at Forest Hill Park as they headed west toward Lake Erie. This did not appear to be a typical migratory movement, but rather an ingathering of birds that were feeding locally prior to the approaching day of departure (Newman).

- August 27 - A group of 18 was observed at dusk as they fed over Tinkers Creek Gorge (Knight).
- August 28 - At 7:53 PM a group of 26 passed over Forest Hill Park on an east southeast course followed a few minutes later by a band of 22 on the same course.
- August 31 - From 7:15 to 8:00 PM a total of 57 was tallied at Forest Hill Park, the largest band consisting of 14 birds feeding locally and then seeming to drift off to the east (Newman).

Passerine Migration. As indicated previously, fall migration this year began early and was not well defined. On July 26, an early migrating Bay-breasted Warbler was found dead at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History after it had apparently crashed into a window (Baum).

Migration was evidently under way as early as July 16, for on that date a female or immature American Redstart was observed at Upper Shaker Lake. Since this species does not breed there, it is assumed it must have been a transient (Newman).

There was a single reported observation of the Mockingbird this summer--from Painesville on June 19. There were no observations of the Whip-poor-will, Short and Long-billed Marsh Wrens and Loggerhead Shrike.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon - One very late individual was observed in early June at Lorain Harbor. This bird was reported by several observers and was last seen on June 9 (Ward).

American Widgeon - (1) Two were observed at Lower Shaker Lake on July 30 (Knight). This marks the second July record for this region and a new early fall date of occurrence. (2) Two were identified at White City lagoon on August 27 (Klamm).

Semipalmated Plover - One lingered at White City in early June and was last reported on June 13 (Hannikman). This is a new latest spring date.

Black-bellied Plover - One was observed at White City on July 17 (Hannikman) where it remained until the 23rd (Klamm). One bird was present at White City on August 3, and twelve were reported from Burke Lakefront Airport on August 27 (Klamm).

Ruddy Turnstone - On July 30, an early date, two were reported from White City (Klamm).

Whimbrel - This rare migrant was observed as it fed on the mud flat at White City on July 15 (Carrothers).

Willet - Two fed on the mud flat at White City on July 13 and were again observed on July 15. A single Willet remained on July 17 (Hannikman, et al).

Greater Yellowlegs - One occurred [occurred] at White City on July 9 (Klamm). This marks a new early fall date, the previous early dates being July 12, 1953 and 1964.

Knot - One bird was reported from White City on August 23 where it was observed daily to the end of the period (Hannikman). This bird was in winter plumage [plumage] and was subsequently identified by several observers.

Stilt Sandpiper - (1) A Stilt Sandpiper in summer plumage [plumage] fed at White City in the company of dowitchers on July 17 (Hocevar). (2) A single bird, possibly the same one, was reported at White City on July 21 (Carrothers). (3) One was again identified at White City on August 8. This bird was in changing plumage [plumage]. The rusty facial markings were absent; however, the heavily barred flanks were readily evident (Hocevar).

Semipalmated Sandpiper - A single bird remained at White City on June 13 (Hannikman). This bird was the last of a flock which had numbered up to 14 individuals that were reported regularly in early June. This marks a new late spring date of occurrence, the previous late date being June 9, 1957.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Two birds were identified at White City on August 24 (Hannikman). One was subsequently seen the following day by several observers and was last reported on August 27 (Klamm).

Sanderling - Five were identified at White City on June 11 as they fed in the company of a lone Semipalmated Plover (Stasko). This marks the first June record for the region and a new late spring date.

American Avocet - (1) On the morning of July 8, seven were observed feeding and at rest in the shallow water of the lagoon at White City (Carrothers). These birds, several of which still retained some of their summer coloration, were subsequently seen later in the day by several observers. (2) One bird was again reported from White City on August 21 (Carrothers). This same bird remained the following day and was last observed on August 24 (Peskin). These two occurrences are only the fourth and fifth records of this species in the Cleveland region.

Franklin's Gull - One was identified on June 11 as it rested on the beach at White City in a small flock of Ring-billed Gulls (Stasko).

Forster's Tern - On the early date of August 13, two were observed at White City as they fed in the company of Common Terns. One was there on August 20 (Klamm).

Olive-sided Flycatcher - One was observed at Bedford Reservation on the 27th of August (Knight).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - The only report of this species during this summer was of a lone individual on August 27 at Bedford Reservation (Knight).

Swainson's Thrush - Two were observed on August 19 at the Donald Gray Garden in downtown Cleveland (Klamm). This marks a new early fall date of observation.

Black and White Warbler - One was observed on the unusually early date of July 30 at Shaker Lakes (Knight).

Tennessee Warbler - Two were observed in an area adjoining Mentor Marsh on August 13 (Hammond). This is a new earliest fall date, the previous date being August 14, 1964.

Pine Warbler - An adult male was observed as it fed leisurely in pines at the Holden Arboretum on July 23 (Hammond). This is the first July record and a new early fall date of occurrence.

Connecticut Warbler - One was noted at Mentor Marsh on August 31 (Hammond).

White-throated Sparrow - One was observed in Bratenahl on the unusually late date of June 3 (Hannikman).

FIELD NOTES

Marsh Hawk Observations. On August 7, I observed an adult female Marsh Hawk flying low over a weedy field near my home in Strongsville. This bird had been seen on several dates in June and July and was suspected of nesting in this area.

Although this would be an unusually late time to find a nesting Marsh Hawk, I decided to investigate this field in an attempt to find evidence of nesting.

After a short walk in the area that the bird had been observed the day before, a young Marsh Hawk was frightened into flight. This bird was obviously very young and was barely able to fly. It was possible to approach the young hawk within 6 to 10 feet before it would feebly fly 30 or 40 yards and alight again.

Finally, after raising the bird a half dozen times, it managed to reach a hedgerow where it perched about ten feet from the ground and triumphantly viewed its assumed attacker.

Nesting records in the Cleveland region of this species have become extremely rare. Although I am certain that this bird was one that was raised in the Strongsville area, there is a possibility that the bird may have been injured, giving the appearance of just developing its flying abilities. -- Charles W. Hocevar

Ovenbird Nesting. On July 8, 1972. an Ovenbird nest was discovered in a 10 inch aluminum flowerpot at a Brecksville residence. This pot contained a Fuchsia plant and hung from the top of an outside deck-porch.

As will be recalled June was excessively wet and cold, and it is speculated that the Ovenbird in its attempt to find relatively dry soil, adopted the airborne flower garden as its summer home.

When the nest was found there were no eggs, however, five were found the following day. On July 12 the clutch size had increased to seven eggs--5 white eggs speckled with brown and two blue eggs. Since only three young hatched on July 28, the origin of the extra two eggs will remain a mystery.

The young were observed feeding for the next week and one-half. However, on August 7 the now two remaining birds were watched as they took wing on an extremely windy day. This must have been a traumatic experience for a ground nesting species.

One month passed from the discovery of the nest to the final observation of the birds leaving the nest. During this period these birds were identified by many reliable observers and were recorded permanently by photographs.

While raising two young from a clutch of seven can hardly be considered successful, the resourcefulness and adaptability of this pair of Ovenbirds certainly merits attention. --Margaret Iacoboni

A Visit to Stebbins Gulch. Stebbins Gulch is a rugged canyon in Geauga County near Mitchells Mills and Wisner Roads and has been owned by Holden Arboretum since 1958.

This area, because of its terrain and location, has suitable nesting habitat for more northerly species that we generally observe only in migration.

Only one group of contributors reported observations from Stebbins Gulch this year. This trip was made on July 1. Although the observation of these species would be included in the noteworthy records section if reported from another Cleveland location, reports of this type should be considered to be rather commonplace in Stebbins Gulch.

A brief summary of unusual species observed follows:

Slate-colored Junco
Solitary Vireo

Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Warbler
Purple Finch
Blackburnian Warbler

In addition, Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found nesting high above the stream. Birds that can be found in Stebbins Gulch that were conspicuous by their absence were Louisiana Waterthrush and Winter Wren. --Charles W. Hocevar

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An INVITATION: The Kirtland Bird Club meets at 7:45 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August, in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Visitors are always welcome to attend these meetings.

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Annual subscriptions to the Cleveland BIRD CALENDAR may be obtained by mailing a check for \$2.00 to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Please indicate any interest you may have in contributing to this publication and enclose your mailing address.